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Mr
Inaugural Dissertation

on

Intermittent Fever

By

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of

Pennsylvania.

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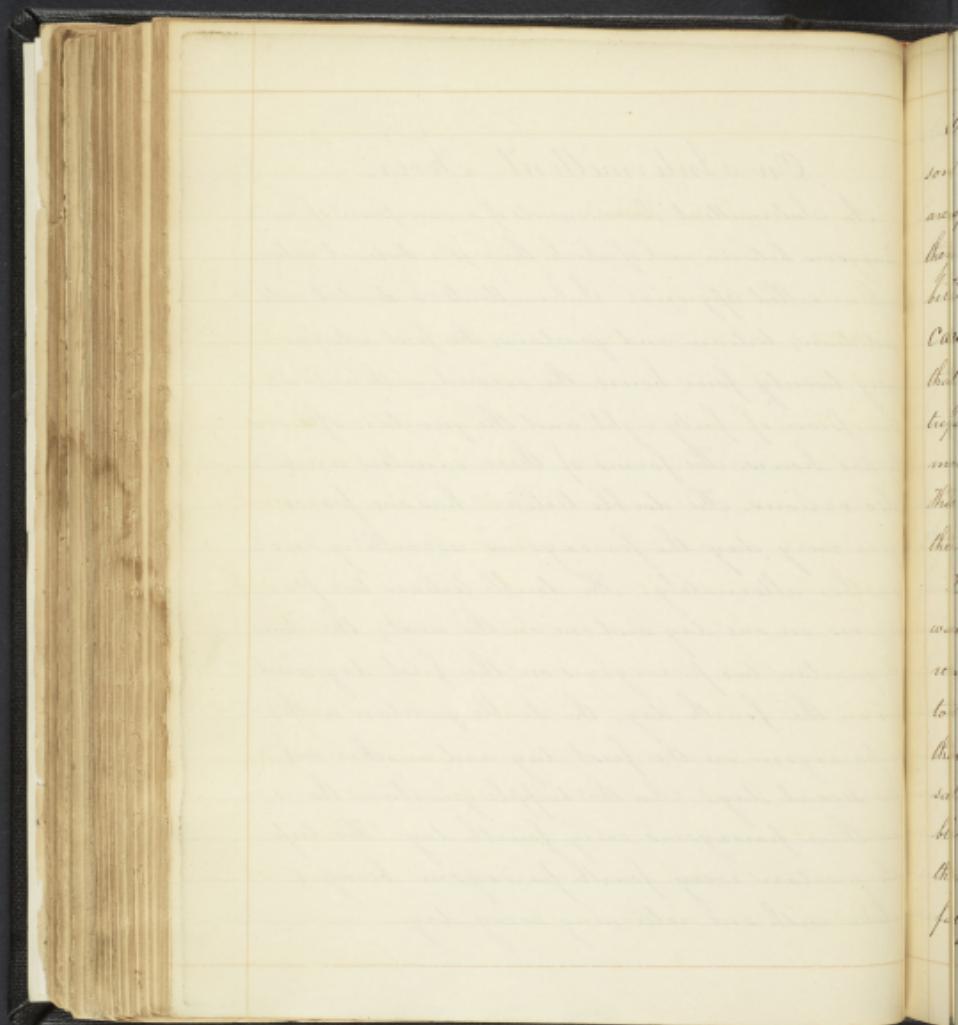
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On Intermittent Fever.

In Intermittent Fever consists of a succession of Paroxysms between each of which there is a distinct intermission called Apyrexia. Intermittents are divided into quartidian, tertian, and quartan; the first returning every twenty four hours, the second with an intermission of forty eight, and the quartan of seventy two hours. The forms of these varieties are also various. The double tertian has one paroxysm every day the paroxysms resembling one another alternately: The double tertian two paroxysms on one day and one on the next; the double quartan two paroxysms on the first day, and two on the fourth day; the double quartan with a paroxysm on the first day and another on the second day. In the triple quartan there are three paroxysms every fourth day. The triple quartan every fourth paroxysm being alike with one returning every day.



When intermittents prevail in the Spring sea-
son they generally assume the tertian type and
are of an inflammatory character; in the Autumn
they assume the quartan form attended with
bilious symptoms

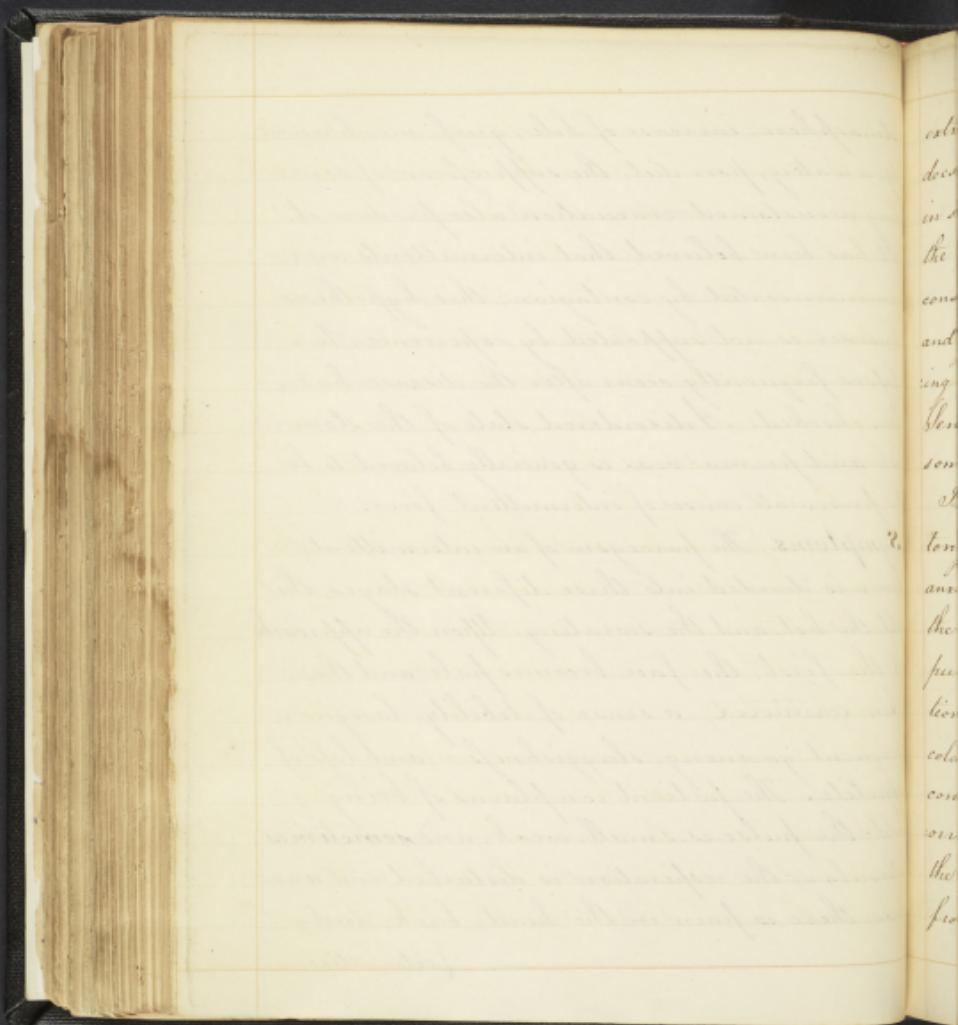
Causes. It appears to be generally acknowledged
that the Marsh miasmas arising from the pu-
trefaction of vegetable matter is the
most common cause of intermittent Fever.
This observation was first made by Pancisi about
the middle of the seventeenth century.

Intermittent fever is not a disease of very
warm or very cold climates. Clark and others
remark, that it rarely occurs near the equa-
tor. It is the opinion of Sir John Pringle
that the effluvia arising from marshes of
salt and fresh water united are more favora-
ble to the production of intermittents than
that of fresh water alone. Intemperance, great
fatigue, wearing damp clothes, cold damp
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atmosphere, increase of bile, grief, much anxiety, a watery, poor diet, the suppression of some long accustomed evacuation also produce it. It has been believed that intermittents are communicated by contagion; this hypothesis however is not supported by experience. Relapses frequently occur after the disease has been checked. A disordered state of the stomach and prima via is generally believed to be the proximate cause of intermittent fever.

Symptoms. The paroxysm of an intermittent fever is divided into three different stages, the cold, the hot, and the sweating. Upon the approach of the first, the face becomes pale and the skin constricted, a sense of debility, languor, frequent yawning, sluggishness and loss of appetite. The patient complains of being cold; the pulse is small, weak, and sometimes irregular, the respiration is disturbed and anxious; there is pain in the head, back, and extremities.



extremities. Drowsiness seldom occurs, when it does it resembles apoplexy. The cold stage is partial in some cases, being confined to one or more of the extremities while in other parts of the body considerable heat is felt, accompanied with cough and great dejection of spirits; the sight and hearing are often impaired. It has been remarked by Genac and Eleghorn that the cold stage is sometimes wanting, the hot occurring first.

In the hot stage, the face is flushed; the tongue is furred, the skin is dry and hot with anxiety great pain in the head, throbbing of the temples, and an increase of sensibility; the pulse is hard, full and irregular; the respiration frequent and more free than in the cold stage, and delirium not unfrequently comes on if the attack is violent. When haemorrhages occur, they generally come on in the hot stage; most generally the blood flows from the nose, sometimes from the lungs, (uterus.

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uterus, and rectum: When the system is in a full plethoric state, they prove serviceable; but on the contrary when it is much debilitated they are always injurious. Frank remarks, that the hot stage is sometimes so slight as scarcely to be perceived. After sometime the symptoms of the hot stage gradually abate, and a moisture appears first on the forehead, which gradually extends itself over the body in the form of sweat; the respiration becomes more free; the urine deposits a sediment; the thirst and heat of the body abate; the pain in the head and back disappears, and the patient is left in a state of debility. These phenomena generally attend a paroxysm of intermittent fever; but this is not always the case as they prevail to a greater or less extent in different persons and in the same persons at different periods.

Prognosis. In some cases the prostration
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of strength is so great as to ^{the patient} destroy on the ¹ first attack. Decays is generally considered favourable; excessive debility of the natural functions indicates great danger. When Intermittents have continued a length of time, they are sometimes converted into a remittent or continued fever, or lay the foundation of other diseases, as dropsy, scirrhous of the liver or spleen. When the paroxysms are of long continuance, violent with much delirium or coma we expect a slow and difficult cure; but if the paroxysms are short and their return regular we may expect a speedy recovery. From convulsions and apoplexy, death sometimes takes place during the fever; but never in the sweating stage. When intermitents terminate fatally, death generally takes place in the cold stage.

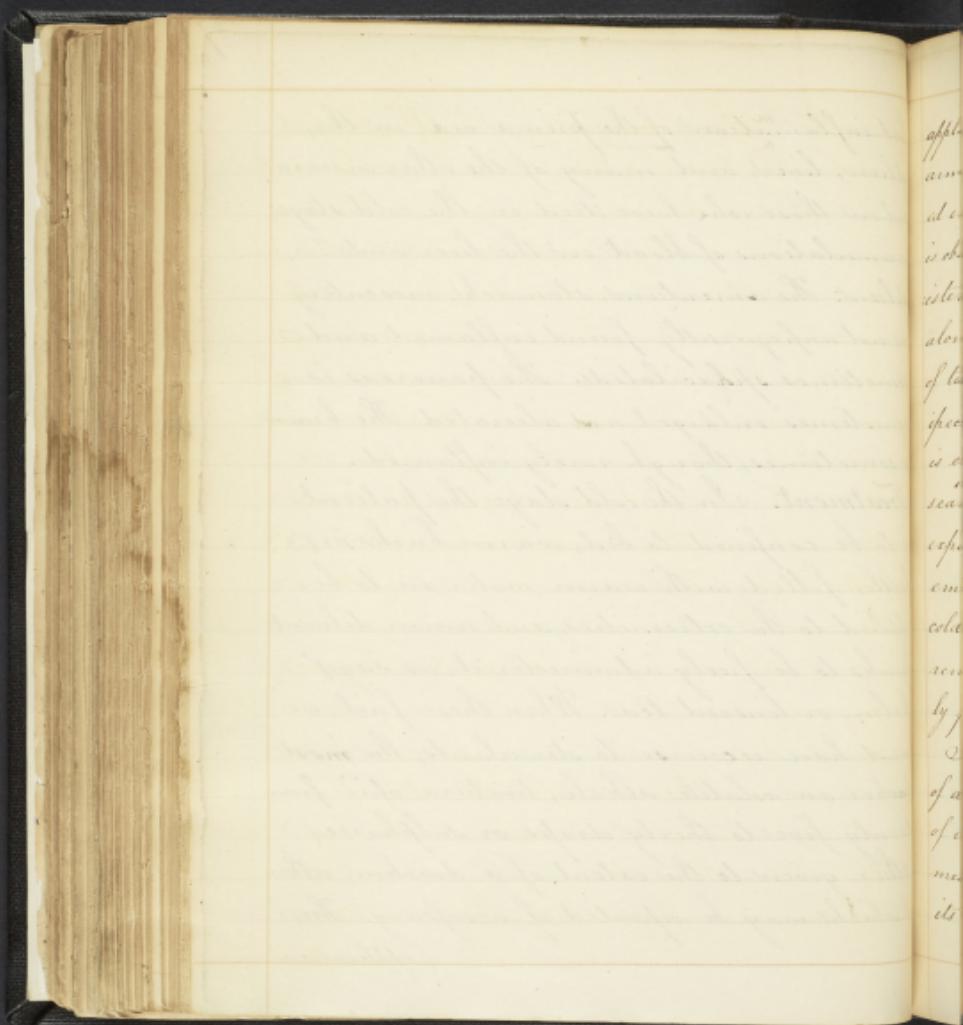
Appearances on dissection. We generally ^{find}

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find inflammation of the prima via, in the spleen, liver, and many of the other viscera, and in those who have died in the cold stage, accumulations of blood in the liver and spleen. The amentum, stomach, mesentery are not unfrequently found inflamed and sometimes sphaculated. The pancreas is sometimes enlarged and ulcerated. The brain is sometimes, though rarely inflamed.

Treatment. In the cold stage the patient is to be confined to bed, warm bricks or bottles filled with warm water are to be applied to the extremities, and warm diluent drinks to be freely administered, as sage balm, or linseed tea. When these fail, we must have recourse to stimulants; the most proper are volatile alkalies, tinctura opii from twenty five to thirty drops, or sulphuric ether, given to the extent of a drachm; either of which may be repeated if necessary. The application



application of a bandage on the thigh and arm of opposite sides has sometimes succeeded in stopping the paroxysm. When the case is obstinate it has been recommended to administer from two to three grains of Opium, either alone or combined with a fourth of a grain of tartarized Antimony or two grains of ipecacuanha two hours before the paroxysm is expected. As intermittent fever has its seat in the stomach, much good is to be expected from the administration of an emetic before the commencement of the cold stage, by this means we are enabled to remove the morbid cause, and consequently prevent its return.

In the hot stage we may give an emetic of antimonial tartar, after the operations of which, we may advise some diaphoretic medicine, as the antimonial powders, spirits of minderii and eupatorium. When

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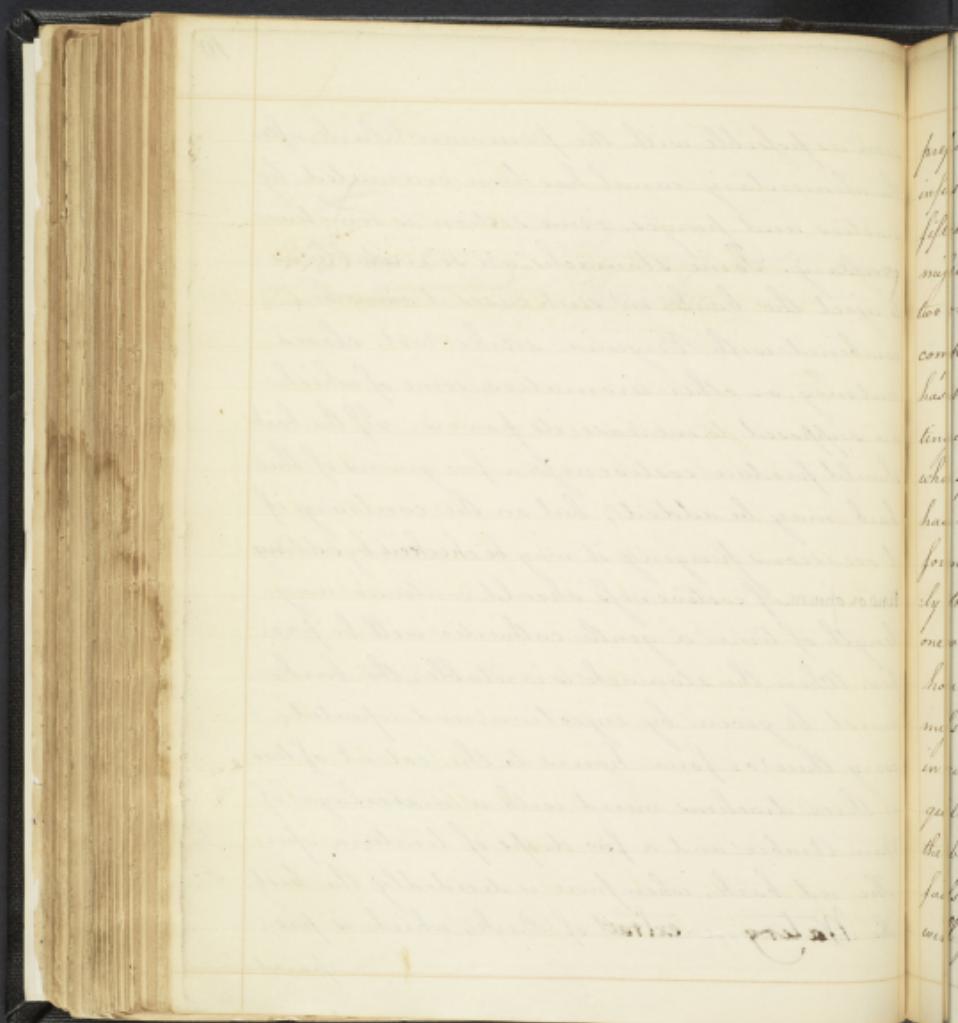
there is much nausea the effervescent draught, or the neutral mixture may be given. If the system refuses to react, the extremities cold and the pulse sinking, we should immediately apply rubifacients, with the volatile alkali and opium internally. If the pain in the head is severe, respiration laborious, the pulse full and strong, we must bleed, vomit, and purge; but if these symptoms are not relieved after waiting a reasonable time, a blister must be applied to the breast, and cups or leeches to the ^{back or} temples; cold drink is grateful and often serviceable in the hot stage. When vomiting and purging of bile spontaneously takes place in this stage diluents are necessary, but if they continue to be severe, opiates must be administered.

Cases rarely occur in which, medicine is necessary in the sweating stage. When the fever intermits, we should commence as

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soon as possible with the peruvian Bark, after the alimentary canal has been evacuated by emetics and purges, venice seltzer is sometimes necessary. Some stomachs are so irritable as to reject the bark, in such cases it may be combined with Virginian snake root, cloves, nutmeg, or other aromatics, some of which are supposed to increase its powers. If the bark should produce costiveness, a few grains of the bark may be added; but on the contrary if it occasions purging it may be checked by adding kino or opium. If costiveness should continue any length of time a gentle cathartic will be proper. When the stomach is irritable, the bark must be given by injection, and repeated every three or four hours to the extent of two or three drachms mixed with a macilage of Gum Arabic and a few drops of tinctura opii. The red bark, when pure is decidedly the best. The Water-glass extract of Bark, which is prepared

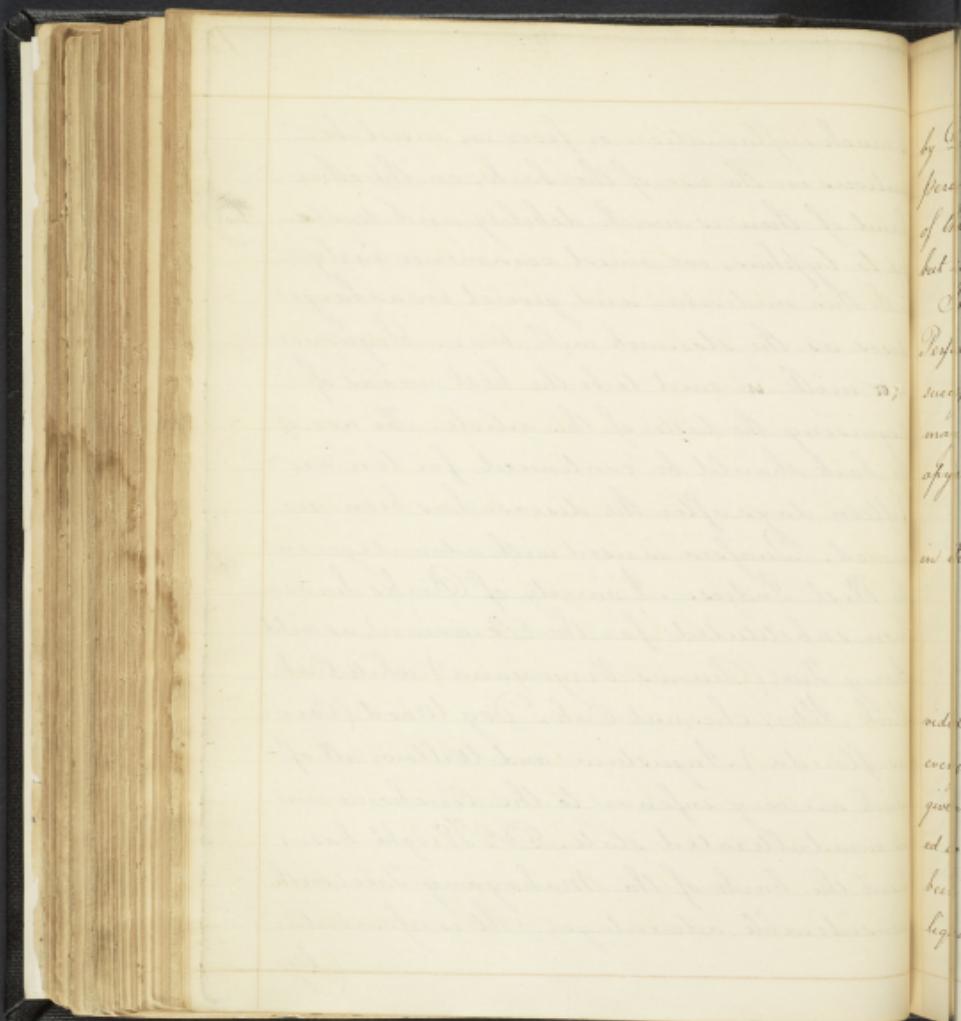


prepared by slow evaporation of the watery infusion, may be given in the dose of ten or fifteen grains every hour during the intermission, either in pills or in solution, with two or three drachms to 3ds Spt. Lavender comp: and 3zs of water. Of late this medicine has been prescribed by some of the most distinguished practitioners of Philadelphia, who speak of it in the highest terms. The bark has been prescribed in a great variety of forms, but of all these the powder is decided by the best, when it agrees with the stomach one or two drachms may be given every hour increasing the dose during the intermission. It is sometimes used externally in cases of delicate females and children, & quilted in a waistcoat, and applied round the body. Dr. Rush says when the Bark fails after repeated trials, moderate bleeding will generally prove successful. Where there
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is much inflammation or fever we must be cautious in the use of the bark; on the other hand if there is much debility and tendency to typhus, we must commence early with this medicine; and give it in as large doses as the stomach will bear. Piquouice or milk is said to be the best means of disguising the taste of this article. The use of the bark should be continued for ten or fifteen days after the disease has been removed. Quassia is used with advantage in the West Indies. A variety of Barks have been substituted for the Peruvian, as wild cherry Tree, (*Prunus Virginiana*), white Oak, black Alder, chestnut Oak, Dog Wood, (*Cornus florida*), Angustura and Willow, all of which are very inferior to the Cinchona in its unadulterated state. Dr Wright has used the bark of the Mahogany Tree with considerable advantage. It is asserted

(by



by Dr. Miller that an ounce of genuine Peruvian Bark given before the approach of the paroxysm will not only prevent it, but sometimes entirely remove the disease.

In the United States, the *Eupatorium Perfoliatum* has been used with considerable success, it acts as a tonic and diuretic; it may be given either in the paroxysm or apyrexia.

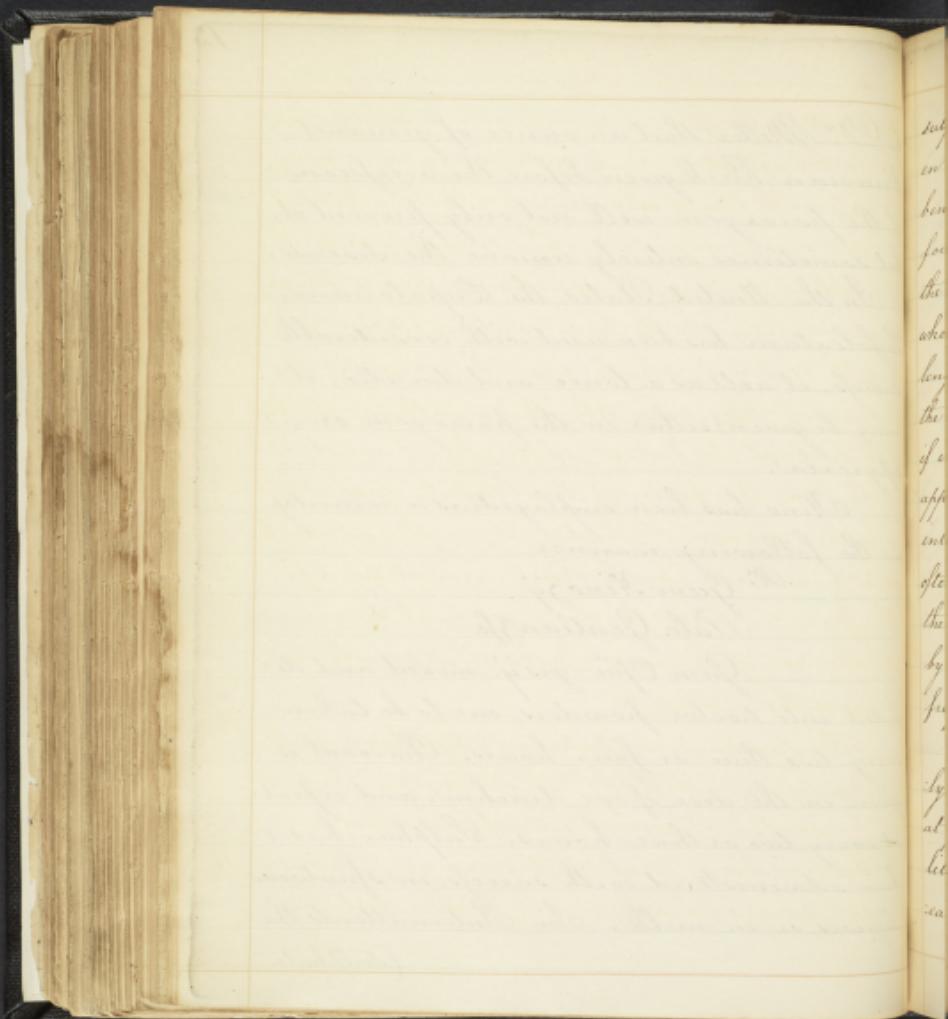
Kino has been employed as a remedy in the following manner.

R. Gum Kino 3ij.

Pala. Gentian 3ff.

Gum Opü grs ij. mixed and divided into twelve powders, one to be taken every two three or four hours. Charcoal is given in the dose of one drachm, and repeated every two or three hours. Sulphur has been administered with success, in spirituous liquors, or in milk. In Intermittents the

(Sulphate



sulphate of Copper is a valuable remedy, given to the extent of one fourth of a grain, combined with two of Peruvian Bark, repeated four times a day. Scirrhous enlargements of the spleen and liver sometimes takes place, when Intermittents have continued for a length of time, which may be removed by the use of Mercury, till the mouth is effected if it cannot be taken internally, it must be applied in the form of Ointment, rubbed into the groins. Dropical swellings which often come on about the termination of the disease, may for the most part be removed by the use of Cremon Tartar in small doses, frequently repeated.

The *saccharum saturni* has been highly recommended by Dr. Barton, but is at present not much in repute. Not a little has been said of Arsenic in this disease, given in solution, as directed by (Dr. Fowler,

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Dr. Fowler, it has proved successful in some
obstinate cases of intermittent Fever, and is
best adapted to the case of children and deli-
cate women; the dose is from ten to twelve
drops for an adult repeated thrice a day
during the intermission. It proves more
efficacious, when given in conjunction
with the Peruvian bark.

The Tela Aranii or Spider's web, has
been prescribed ^{instead of opium} with success by Pro-
fessors Physick and Chapman in doses
of five grains, repeated every four or five
hours. that which is found in cellars and
dark places is the best.

Diet. If an inflammatory diathesis ex-
ists we must recommend light food, as
Panada, Lago, Tapioca and Barley; but
in patients of a weak habit, a contrary
course must be pursued, wine and ani-
mal food may be taken.

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Preventives. The best preventives are a generous diet, comfortable clothing, the use of Park, or infusion of Peassia once or twice a day, change of air, exercise in the open air, on horseback and in carriages, avoiding every thing that tends to debilitate.

